

CHURCHES LEAVING LIBERAL METHODIST DENOMINATION

August 1, 2000 (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org) - Many congregations are leaving the liberal Methodist denomination of New Zealand because of its acceptance of homosexual ministers. Five of the departing congregations have associated together to form the New Zealand Wesleyan Methodist Church. Six Samoan Methodist congregations have formed yet another evangelical Methodist group. At least one congregation has re-defined itself as an independent community church. Others are expected to follow suit in coming months, dropping the Methodist denomination's membership from roughly 17,000 to roughly 10,000.

Though we do not agree with Methodist doctrine and practice in many important points, we are glad that these congregations are concerned enough about the truth to separate from those who are perverting it. The ecumenical movement says that Christian unity is preeminent; but there is something far worse than disunity, and that is compromise of the biblical faith (Jude 3).

It is important to note that some of the departing congregations are losing their buildings. One of the chief motivations that keeps "evangelicals" within liberal denominations is money. Pastors who leave denominations lose financial security.